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Pennsylvania - 10th District

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Of Scranton — Elected 1962

Born: Sept. 29, 1931, Scranton, Pa.

Education: U. of Notre Dame, B.A. 1953, U. of Pennsylvania, LL.B. 1956

Occupation: Lawyer.

Family: Wife, Mary Teresa O'Brien, four children.

Religion: Roman Catholic.

Political Career: No previous office.

Capitol Office: 2370 Rayburn Bldg. 20515; 225-3731.



In Washington: McDade spent years as an inconspicuous "specialist" on the Appropriations Committee, tracking the Interior Department and lobbying for money to help the coal industry. But at the start of the 99th Congress, he took a sharp turn toward prominence by taking over as ranking Republican at the Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense.

The position of senior Republican on that subcommittee is a plum, and McDade claimed it when the retirement of Alabama's Jack Edwards opened it up in 1985. But his first term as ranking member was something of an adjustment period for McDade, who was not as experienced on defense issues as most of his colleagues on the panel. McDade did not join Defense Appropriations until 1981 and had not spent much time on it in the 97th and 98th Congresses.

Besides forcing McDade to master a complex field, the switch in assignments placed him in a politically sensitive position. Some GOP conservatives were concerned that McDade, a moderate urban Republican who had been skeptical of diverting massive sums from domestic to military purposes, would not be as reliable a party loyalist as Edwards had been.

McDade had been mild, for instance, in his enthusiasm for the MX missile. He had voted against funds for the weapon in 1982, saying he was not confident that the administration had a cohesive arms control policy, and citing concerns about the basing mode.

He also raised a cautionary note just prior to taking over his new position on the Defense subcommittee. "From the standpoint of the Defense Department and its credibility in the country, the deficit demands that the defense budget be part of the reduction process," he said in late 1984.

But McDade's performance in his first term as ranking member must have allayed most conservatives' concerns. He acted as a

loyal and often effective spokesman for the administration's most prominent initiatives. He also cooperated with Bill Chappell Jr., a conservative Florida Democrat who succeeded to the subcommittee chairmanship following the death of New York's Joseph P. Addabbo, an anti-Pentagon liberal.

Early in 1985, McDade submitted a joint resolution containing Reagan's request for the production of 21 additional MX missiles. Unlike those conservative members whose appeals for such weapons systems are couched in terms of an imminent Soviet threat, McDade cited the missile's supposed benefits to the arms control process. "There is ... one central fact in the world today, and that is that our negotiators are in Geneva, finally sitting across the table from the Russians," McDade said during floor debate. "The Russians are intransigent. They usually understand only when we show resolve." The resolution passed by a 217-210 vote.

McDade used the same logic during debate on the strategic defense initiative, just prior to Reagan's 1985 summit meeting with Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev in Geneva. "The driving force that brought the Soviets to the table was that SDI program," McDade said. "There is no good logic for us to cut the legs off that driving force."

In June 1985, McDade submitted an amendment developed by House Minority Leader Robert H. Michel of Illinois to provide \$27 million in non-military aid to the Nicaraguan contra rebels. The measure, which broke a two-year-old ban on any aid to the contras, passed by a 248-184 margin.

On one defense issue, McDade did raise a mild protest against a Reagan stand. The Reagan administration, which claimed the Soviet Union had violated the strategic arms limita-

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Northeast — Scranton

The city of Scranton dominated the politics of northeastern Pennsylvania in the early part of the century, but as the coal-and-railroad town has declined in population, Scranton and Lackawanna County have had to speak with a quieter political voice.

Generally, they have been a small Democratic voice within an increasingly Republican 10th District. In 1976 and 1980, Lackawanna voted for Jimmy Carter, but that was not enough to prevent the district from going to the GOP nominee; in 1984, even Lackawanna gave President Reagan a majority over Walter F. Mondale.

The Scranton family is still a power in Lackawanna County, despite the unsuccessful 1986 statewide campaign of William Scranton III, who was seeking a promotion to governor after eight years serving as Gov. Dick Thornburgh's lieutenant governor. The younger Scranton's father, William W. Scranton — known as "the Squire" — was governor in the 1960s.

Lackawanna County still has half the district's people, despite the prolonged slump in anthracite mining that has led to a decline in employment and population. The county's Democratic majority casts its vote in Scranton and in such blue-collar towns as Moosic and Old Forge. The Republicans cluster in affluent suburbs like Clarks Summit and Dalton (home of the Scranton family). Ethnically, the scramble for political office in this polyglot county has been between the Italians and the Irish.

In contrast to Scranton's shrinkage (its population dropped 14 percent in the 1970s), there has been spectacular population growth in some of the outlying counties of the 10th Pike, a Pocono Mountain county east of Scranton, contains many vacation cottages and is home to business executives who commute to New York. Pike's population boomed by 54 percent in the 1970s. Republican Monroe County, to the south of Pike, also is home to Pocono resorts such as Buck Hill Falls and Camelback.

West of Scranton are sparsely populated rural counties along the New York border such as Potter and Clinton, which are made up of woods, dairy farms and Republicans.

Scranton itself regained a measure of its old prominence in the 1984 presidential campaign. When Democratic vice presidential nominee Geraldine Ferraro stopped to campaign there in September, the city's Roman Catholic bishop attracted national headlines by holding a press conference in which he sharply criticized her views on abortion. Though the bishop later sent Ferraro a conciliatory letter, the incident highlighted the Democratic Party's trouble with the abortion issue and Scranton's reputation as a hotbed of anti-abortion sentiment.

Population: 515,442. White 510,782 (99%). Black 2,262 (0.4%). Spanish origin 2,214 (0.4%). 18 and over 376,348 (73%). 65 and over 75,215 (15%). Median age 33.

tion treaty known as SALT II, moved in 1986 to abrogate the terms of that treaty. But McDade signed a letter circulated by other House members, urging Reagan to maintain the "non-undercut" policy regarding the treaty.

McDade has to be far more party-conscious in his Defense role than he ever was in his previous leadership position on the Interior Subcommittee. In his old job, McDade had a comfortable partnership with Democrat Sidney R. Yates of Illinois, the Interior Appropriations chairman. Yates usually took a bipartisan approach and treated McDade as a full partner, allowing him to determine spending levels for many of the energy programs within the sub-

committee's jurisdiction.

Toward the end of his tenure as ranking Republican on the Interior panel, McDade did occasionally deviate from his bipartisan approach. For nearly a decade, though, Yates and McDade were one of the more successful legislative teams in the House. Rarely did their bills generate much floor opposition on either side of the aisle, even when they exceeded administration budget requests.

Because the Interior Subcommittee has control over most of the money the federal government spends on energy research, McDade had a lot to say over how the money should be spent. He was one of the staunchest

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defenders of the synthetic fuels program, one of the progeny of the energy crisis of the 1970s. The economy of McDade's Scranton district is heavily reliant on coal, one of the key raw materials in synthetic fuel production.

With oil prices falling in the early 1980s, McDade fought attempts to cut funds for the Synthetic Fuels Corporation. Bristling at charges that support for synfuels was "corporate welfare," McDade responded by saying that "to destroy the Synthetic Fuels Corporation is to engage in Arab palimony." But he was ultimately unsuccessful; the House voted to cut the corporation's budget in half in the 98th Congress, then eliminated the program entirely in the 99th Congress.

More recently, McDade has signed on to a coal-related initiative that has some high-level support. He backs the Clean Coal Technology Reserve Fund, a program that the Reagan administration has adopted as an alternative to the acid rain control legislation favored by environmentalists in Congress. Unlike the acid rain bills, which would require mandatory reductions in sulfuric emissions from coal-burning plants, the Clean Coal program would provide coal users with grants to perform research on coal-burning methods that create less pollution.

McDade has also supported the coal industry outside the Interior Subcommittee. He has developed a reputation as "Mr. Coal" at the Pentagon for his insistence that the Defense Department buy American coal for its facilities overseas. Foreign firms bought 270,000 metric tons of anthracite from Pennsylvania in 1984 for U.S. defense installations in Europe.

Outside the energy field, McDade's only consistent speciality has been small business. A supporter of the Small Business Administration, he would be chairman of the Small Business Committee if Republicans won the House.

McDade sent a telegram of protest in 1986 after the acting SBA director fired six of the 10 regional administrators, with the intention of replacing them with people who were more supportive of Reagan administration efforts to scuttle SBA programs. In 1982 he successfully promoted legislation authorizing a special \$169 million fund in the Small Business Administration to make loans to areas — such as northern Pennsylvania — where unemployment has been far above the national average.

On most votes, McDade is a consistent moderate Republican, one of a handful of GOP members who vote with the Democrats roughly half the time. He was a strong supporter of civil rights during the 1960s and one of 18 House Republicans who introduced their own civil

rights bill in 1966, focusing on equal treatment for blacks in the court system. He has always been an ally of labor; the AFL-CIO consistently gives him favorable ratings.

At the start of the 100th Congress, McDade proposed the establishment of a national lottery, with at least 50 percent of the proceeds going into the U.S. Treasury to help close the federal deficit. Calling the deficit "the country's most serious problem," McDade said "Establishing a national lottery would be a creative means of raising revenue to reduce the deficit without increasing taxes."

At Home: Times were hard in this coal-producing area long before the recession of the early 1980s, and McDade has endeared himself to constituents of both parties with his efforts to promote the region's economic development.

McDade's Republican affiliation appeals to the outlying, rural portions of the 10th, and his pro-labor voting record pleases the blue-collar Democrats in Lackawanna County (Scranton, the district's focal point). Unions regularly back McDade, and local Democratic organizations have stopped endorsing candidates to run against him. As an Irish Catholic, he has an appeal among Lackawanna's large ethnic population enjoyed by few Republicans.

In a bid to maintain his following among Democrats, McDade avoids strong partisanship. When not campaigning for himself, he usually limits his political appearances at home to attending the annual Lincoln Day dinner. That has led to some criticism that he is not personally visible enough, but it has never been a political problem for him.

Earlier in his career, McDade was mentioned often as a possibility for statewide office, but nothing ever came of it. In 1966 he was offered the GOP nomination for lieutenant governor, but declined. In 1976 and 1980, he was an early Senate contender, but chose not to enter the campaign.

A lawyer and former municipal solicitor in his home city, McDade succeeded Republican William W. Scranton, after whose ancestors the city is named. Scranton had served one House term and then become governor.

Handpicked by Scranton for the 1962 House nomination, McDade won an unspectacular election victory. In 1964 his winning margin was narrower yet. By 1966, however, he had enlisted the support of organized labor, and his vote never has dipped below 60 percent since.

During the 1970s, he brought in numerous federal contracts with the help of his friend from nearby Wilkes-Barre, Rep. Daniel J. Flood, a Democratic power on Appropriations.

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Committees

Small Business (Ranking)
 SBA and the General Economy (Ranking)
 Appropriations (2nd of 22 Republicans)
 Defense (Ranking), Interior and Related Agencies

Elections

1984 General
 Joseph M. McDade (R) 118,603 (75%)
 Robert C. Bolus (D) 40,248 (25%)

1984 General
 Joseph M. McDade (R) 150,166 (77%)
 Gene Basalyga (D) 44,571 (23%)

Previous Winning Percentages: 1982 (68%), 1980 (77%)
 1978 (77%), 1976 (63%), 1974 (65%), 1972 (74%)
 1970 (65%), 1968 (67%), 1966 (67%), 1964 (51%)
 1962 (53%)

District Vote For President

1984		1980		1976	
D	75,727 (38%)	D	79,276 (39%)	D	101,832 (48%)
R	123,130 (61%)	R	110,645 (54%)	R	105,197 (50%)
		I	10,126 (5%)		

Campaign Finance

	Receipts	Receipts from PACs	Expenditures
1986			
McDade (R)	\$394,141	\$203,665 (52%)	\$291,757
Bolus (D)	\$10,195	0	\$10,195

1984

McDade (R) \$267,445 \$150,365 (56%) \$146,334

Voting Studies

Year	Presidential Support		Party Unity		Conservative Coalition	
	S	O	S	O	S	O
1986	49	42	31	58	66	24
1985	59	38	44	47	67	29
1984	57	35	41	48	63	25
1983	57	30	44	43	60	31
1982	40	45	36	55	53	41
1981	62	30	55	34	62	25

S = Support

O = Opposition

Key Votes

Produce MX missiles (1985) Y
 Cut federal subsidy for water projects (1985) N
 Weaken gun control laws (1986) Y
 Cut back public housing construction (1986) N
 Aid Nicaraguan contras (1986) Y
 Impose textile import limits over Reagan veto (1986) Y
 Block chemical weapons production (1986) N
 Impose South African sanctions over Reagan veto (1986) Y

Interest Group Ratings

Year	ADA	ACU	AFL-CIO	CCUS
1986	45	63	93	31
1985	20	57	75	38
1984	30	41	77	56
1983	30	52	67	60
1982	60	33	75	32
1981	25	93	47	75